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Carolina Cupane was born in Palermo/Italy. She studied Classical and Byzantine Philology at the University of Palermo, where she also received her PhD. In 1976, she moved to Vienna for post-doctoral studies at the Department of Byzantine Studies of the University of Vienna (Austria).

Since 1994, she is University Lecturer (Universitäts-Dozent) at the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Vienna as well as Senior Research Fellow at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Institute of Medieval Studies / Division of Byzantine research) (1999-2013).

Since 2014, she is retired. Her research focuses on Byzantine Vernacular Literature, Byzantine Narratives, Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Cultural Mobility and the Migration of Narrative Motifs between East and West.